TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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BIBLE VERSE TO STUDY:

"Let your Speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt."
—Colossians 4:6.

MAINTAIN THAT INTEREST

American people show great interest in their government on election day, and then, oftentimes, forget it until the next election comes up. A continuing interest in government at all levels is desirable. Here in Appomattox, we have concluded the selection of town officials for a two-year term of office. There was considerable interest in the selection of members of the Town Council. We congratulate the winners. But we hope that the local citizens will not now forget about their town government until the next election rolls around.

THE APPROACH OF SUMMER

It will not be long before the longest day of the year arrives. This arrives midway between the Spring and Fall equinox, when the twenty-four hour day is exactly half day and half night.

This year the first day of Summer begins on June 21st, as it often does, and Summer will last until September 23rd, which is the first day of Autumn. The hottest days of the year will probably come — if the weather follows the traditional pattern —after the longest daylight of the year.

This is true, usually, because the earth stores up heat in the period when the sun shines longest. By July and August the earth has stored up great quantities of heat and is likely to register temperatures which exceed those of days which were actually longer in sunlight, which occurred back in June. Therefore, even thought we will soon see the longest day of the year, the hottest period of the year is yet before us.

THE FARM PROBLEM

The recent House vote, in favor of ninety per cent parity price supports, does not mean there is much chance for a return to these supports in the near future. As predicted by many several weeks ago, the Senate has not followed suit and there is little likelihood that it will.

Even if the Senate would follow suit, the President would probably veto a ninety per cent parity price support bill. The result seems to be that Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson's flexible price supports system, which is going into operation this year, will get a test.

This test will probably last through this year and 1956. That is likely because the present Congress and President Eisenhower will remain in office throughout 1956.

It does not take a fortune-teller to see that unless the flexible price supports system does something for the farmer, major changes will be demanded. The farm vote is likely to be a one-sided one in the elections of 1956 unless the flexible price supports system shows some promise of straigtening out the present farm dilemma.

That dilemma is, in brief, the declining purchasing power of the farmer. In 1945, the last year of World War II, farm income totalled about eight per cent of total national income. Today, farm income is down to just above five per cent of the total income, and that doesn't tell the whole story.

Not ony is farm income down, but the farmer is having to pay much more for what he buys. As a result, the farmer's purchasing power and his traditional share of the total income is being steadily reduced. This cannot continue without producing an adverse effect on the economy. Yet it has been going on now for some three or four years.

Because of this, the House was recently in the mood to vote to return to high parity price supports. If the Administration's flexible price supports system does not produce results, either this, or another system, is almost sure to be adopted by the Congress of 1957. If the situation is not improved by 1957, the nation is ilkely to be feeling the painful effects of the plight of the average U. S. farmer.

* * * * * * *

The commencement oratory is almost over and, somehow, the problems of the universe have not been solved.

* * * * * * *

Sensible query: "If you're so smart, why aren't you rich?"

IS IT WORTH IT?

It is a known fact that one automobile can be made to outspeed another automobile over varying distances. Yet why keep demonstrating it over and over again! In Indianapolis on Memorial Day, the dignity and sacredness of that day, dedicated to war dead, was marred by a track tragedy which saw human bloodshed. And this past week-end, in France, a race track tragedy saw 77 lives taken in perhaps the worst disaster in automotive history. Pray tell us, what good is accomplished by automobile racing? It does not prove anything not already all too well known; it is expensive; and it takes human life. We should think that a better way could be found to observe Memorial Day. And a better way to entertain excitment-hungry spectators.

SYMINGTON ON AIR POWER

Senator Stuart Symington, Missouri Democrat, who was formerly Secretary of the Air Force, recently said he thought the Russian air force was superior to our air force in two categories, equal in another and behind in one.

Symington's statement reflected obvious concern and was in contrast—in tone— to statements which have emanated from the Defense Department recently. Although Symington did not specify which categories he felt we led in or were behind in, it is known that he thinks the Russians have many more jet fighters than we do.

Symington believes the Russians have many thousands of MIG-17's, an advanced version of the MIG-15. This fighter is thought to be close to, if not a match for, the best U. S. fighters now in operation in any numbers.

Symington is also known to believe that Soviet Russia has a greater variety of heavy bombers than Defense Department officials had believed only a few months ago. He thinks the Russian air force is not a defensive force as Americans had been told until recently, but that it is an offensive-designed air force which could deliver an atomic attack, on a broad scale, at the drop of a hat.

Symington obviously believes we have been overconfident and have under-estimated the potentialities of the Soviet Union. Adolf Hitler did the same thing, and this led him to make his fatal mistake, in 1941, when he under-estimated Russian strength in tanks to such an extent that he attacked, thinking he could win awar against Russia in six months.

The lesson seems to be clear for the United States. Our own history proves that we have consistently under-estimated the enemy, and did so in 1939, 1940 and 1941. Symington's warning, then, seems well-timed, and it should be heeded by Defense officials.

Health and Beauty

Have you just tried on your bathing suit for the first time this season? If you have, chances are good, judging by the American average, you have decided something must be done about those extra pounds you put on during the winter.

You can look forward to enjoying your diet for if you choose the right kind of diet, it need not be a lettuce-leaf and carrot-juice affair.

The best way to burn up fat is to set up your metabolism. The way to do that is to include lots of juicy steaks, thick lamb chops, and sizzling (lean meat) hamburgers in your diet. Other important items are fresh eggs, vegetables and fruits.

If you are on the right type of diet, the food you eat will provide the energy you need without adding more fat in the process. Providing you are in good health, after a few days on your metabolism diet you will feel better than you have for sometime.

Drink plenty of water between meals. Cut down on your salt intake if you use too much to season your food. This is important because salt tends to cause your tissues to take on added water. Take your vitamin pills if you think it necessary.

Use a non-caloric sweetener in your morning coffee and in cooking. Skim milk or butter milk (without butter globs) can be a big help. Eat only a very small amount of fat of any kind, including butter. Fat has more concentrated calories than any other food.

Take a healthful amount of exercise. Concentrate on your bad features, such as large hips or legs.

In Fashion Now

The coming warm summer days are making conversation pieces, of shorts of all kinds. Short shorts seems to have taken a back-seat in favor of the newer Bermuda and Jamaicas. These new shorts end just a couple of inches above the knee and can be worn many more places than the old favorite short shorts.

There are a number of new shorts designed in stripes, reminiscent of the diplomat's striped pants. These are particularly newsworthy this season. The stripes, following down the body line, tend to slenderize.

Styles in denim and other cottons like twills and poplin are popular. They are easy to care for and cool to wear. In khaki color, black, charcoal, gray, royal blue, and the pale pastels that can be teamed with plain or print blouses, the short picture is very exciting.

The cool halter top is much in demand. The newest design is the tuxedo-type and is especially effective when worn with diplomats-inspired shorts.

Batiste dresses and separates are always lovely and cool looking. They are usually inlaid with lace and tucked and are appropriate for morning or evening wear.

There are designs in batiste for all ages. The younger set will appreciate the circles of floating skirt and puffed sleeves. The more mature will enjoy the straight-skirt design, with lace and tucks inlaid as trim.

Batiste is especially lovely in the summertime bloom of color, in such shades as pink, lemon, blue, lilac, or beige.

One charming design was a dress-like outfit for mother and daughter. The dresses were equally flattering to both.

GOLDEN GLEAMS

And out of evil still to find means of good. —Milton.

When to mischief mortals bend
their will,
How soon they find fit instruments
of ill.
—Pope.

Bear the ills you have, lest worse befall you. —Phaedrus.

The evil that men do lives after
them;
The good is often interred with their
bones. —Shakespeake.

Time to me this truth has taught
(Tis a treasure worth revealing),
More offend by want of thought
Than from want of feeling.
—Charles Swain.

ABOUT YOUR HOME

By Frances Dell

Foliar feeding of plants is no new thing. In fact, many smart gardeners have been feeding plants in this manner for as long as five years.

It has some very real advantages over the old type of feeding. It is less expensive and less work. It is possible to spray for blackspot and most insect pests in one operation.

With foliar feeding, each plant is fed in proportion to its leaf surface. The general rule in feeding is to give each plant a handful of commercial fertilizer. This way the little plants and the big palnts often get the same amount of food.

Another advantage in foliar feeding is that the plants tend to absorb some of the insecticide and fungicide added to the plant food sprayed on them. They become somewhat toxic and thus kill many pests instead of merely running them away.

You can start spraying plants every five days after danger of frost is past. After growth appears, cut back to every ten days. During midsummer, every two to three weeks is plenty. You continue until very early fall.

The best time of day for feeding is in the morning. Be sure to cover all of the leaf—underside as well as top.

The Federal Narcotics Commissioner, putting the number of addicts in the United States at ...000, estimated 9,858 were in New York State.

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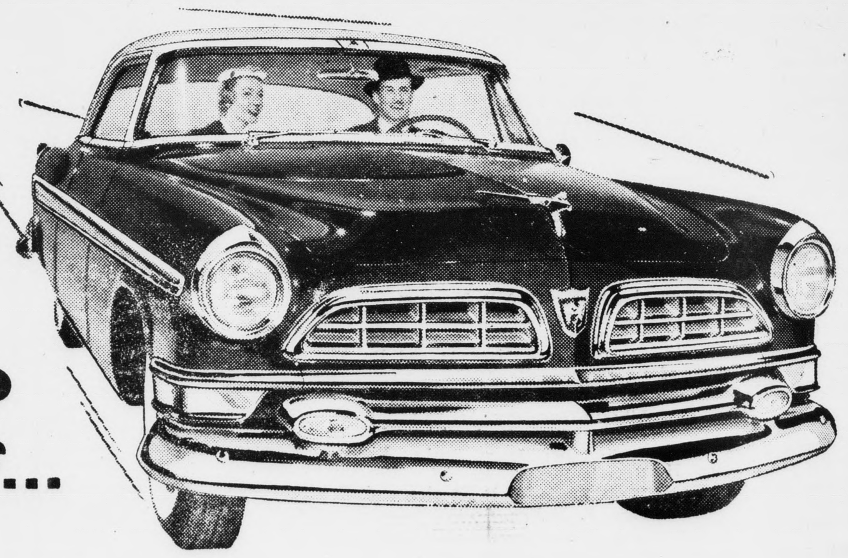

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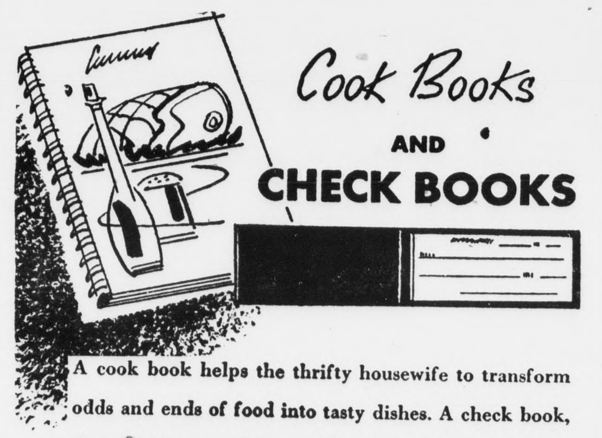

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FARM AND HOME NEWS

Make Plans Early For Fall Pastures

Plan early for good fall pastures and alfalfa seeding, urges Jim Smith, County Agent.

Plans for fall pasture and alfalfa seedings should include selecting the field, having the soil tested, making arrangements to have lime and fertilizer on hand when needed, preparing land early, selecting a pasture mixture which will provide abundant grazing, and a variety of alfalfa that will offer good yields.

After selecting the field, take a representative soil sample and bring it to the county agent's office. Take samples from several places in the same field and mix them together thoroughly. A pint of mixed soil constitutes a sample. If part of the field has received a different lime, fertilizer, or cropping treatment, or a different soil type, make separate samplings.

Lime is important. Apply enough to bring the pH to between 6.0 and 6.5, preferable 6.5. The nearer the pH is to 6.5 the longer if will be before liming is necessary again. Apply at least half the lime 30 days before seeding. If the soil is extremely acid, apply half the lime before plowing, then plow it down.

Most fields can profitably use 800 to 1,000 pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 2-12-12 or 5-10-10 for seedings. Seeding time is the only time fertilizer and lime can be worked deeply into the soil. Deep placement of lime and fertilizer will encourage deeper root development and the pasture will be better able to withstand drougth.

Preparation of the soil should begin around July 15. After the soil has been prepared a light disk or harrow should be run over the field every 7 - 10 days to prevent crusting. Seed should be sowed after the first good rain in August, but not later than September 15. Should season prevent seeding during this period, wait until spring.

Alfalfa is being seeded at the rate of 16,000 acres per year in Virginia. This is low and should be at the rate of 26,000 acres for the next 5 - 10 years. With proper management alfalfa can be excellent pasture. The use of electric fences can make aflalfa grazing practical. It should be grazed over completely in a short period and then allow 25 - 30 days for recovery. The spring cuttings may be used as hay or silage. Seed alfalfa with orchard grass for better yields and curing qualities. Seed 15 - 20 pounds alone or 15 - 20 pounds with 3 - 5 pounds of orchard grass. Cut when 1/10—1/4 bloom except first cutting. It should be cut when the orchard grass seed begins to emerge from the boot. A mistake many farmers make it to wait until this first cutting begins to bloom.

Seed ladino clover and a tall grass mixture at the rate of ladino 1 - 2 pounds, grass 6 - 10 pounds. Additional spring grazing may be added by using 3 - ' pounds of alfalfa in this mixture.

Ladino clover alone at the rate of 2 pounds per acre will make an excellent pasture for hogs and poultry.

Electric Fence Aids Strip Grazing Plan

Movable electric fences will save time, money and labor if you are using rotatio grazing this year, says Jim Smith, County Agent.

Shifting cows to new pastures in a rotational grazing plan calls for a quick, easy way to install and remove fences. The job can be done with temporary steel posts and barbless 18 gauge copper-coated steel wire.

Set the posts 45 to 50 feet apart and use a good insulator. The copper - coated wire is cheap, durable, and easy to handle. Such a fence costs about $70 per mile. You can operate it for 10 cents worth of electricity per month.

Figure the height of the fence at two thirds the height of the animals on pasture. You need only one wire 30 to 36 inches above the ground to hold dairy cattle.

Use only an approved controller unit. Homemake controllers may be dangerous. Put the controller out of doors only when it has a waterproof case. A dry and clean location is best—such as a machine shed or farm shop.

Be sure to ground the controller with a 5/8-inch copper rod or a 3/4-inch galvanized pipe driven at least eight feet into the ground. Connect the controller to the ground with a No. 8 copper wire.

Temperatures Affect Cattle Gains

Temperatures have a lot to do with how fast livestock gain. California researchers have found that water cooled to 65 degrees in summer weather gave about a quarter of a pound a day more than water which averaged 89 degrees. A roughage concentrate ration produced less heating and faster gains than roughage alone.

They even went so far as to show that wooden corrals reflected and radiated enough heat to reduce daily gains on cattle below that for animals kept in wire pens.

These results call attention to the need for ample shade and cool water in the summer time.

Tests On Feeding Litter Reported

County Agent Jim Smith, reporting on tests at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, says ordinary chicken litter containing 25 to 30% protein equivalent was compared with soybean oil in rations of wintering ewes.

In a 156-day wintering period, ewes fed ground chicken litter to replace soybean meal made the same gains as those on soybean meal. Lambs responded likewise.

Similarly, a steer ration fed 112 days and containing equal energy and equal nitrogen showed gains on cottonseed meal of 2.06 pounds a day, and gains on chicken litter of 1.99 pounds a day.

The researchers list some precautions in the use of chicken litter. It must be heat-treated to minimize the danger of disease. It must contain a minimum percentage of nitrogen. It is no good for non-ruminant animals such as pigs and poultry. It should supply only 40 to 50% of the total nitrogen needed in the ration.

COMING EVENTS

July 5—16: V. P. I. Dairy Herd Improvement Association Short Course. Individuals interested in making application for a job as a D.H.I.A. supervisor should ocntact the county agent's office. Cost which includes board, lodging and supplies, will be $75 to $80.

September 5—17: V. P. I. Artificial Insemination Training Course. This is a two-week course. Those completing the first week should be sufficiently trained to breed their herds with fair results. Those completing the two weeks should have enough training to become fairly proficient at the art of insemination in a short time. Application forms are available at the county agent's office. Cost and class schedules will be available at a later date.

August 1—4: V. P. I. Beekeepers Short Course. Honey producers will find this short course to be helpful. Problems can be discussed with the several authorities who are on the program.

July 12—14: Penn State College. Annual Conference of the American Country Life Association. Sessions open to anyone interested in promoting rural culture and coping with modern rural problems. Topic for the 1955 summer session is "New Aims in Rural Life." Information, program details, and registration are available from Dr. Ray C. Buck, Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania.

June 27 — July 2: V. P. I. State 4-H Short Course. Some 1,100 club members, leaders and county agents from throughout Virginia will attend the 32nd State 4-H Short Course. This is the largest 4 - H event in the state, and annually draws many visitors from out - of state. Also on hand this year will be five international farm youth exchange delegates from abroad, and several Virginians who have served as IFYE's in other countries.

Tuesday morning, June 28, principal speaker will be Congressman Watkins M. Abbitt, representative of the fourth congressional district, who will discuss "Opportunities for Youth."

Other highlights of the week's program will be: an IFYE presentation Tuesday evening; the "House of Magic" science show, Wednesday evening; the annual 4-H All Star presentation Thursday evening; and the 4-H 'share-the-fun' talent program Friday evening.

Initiation of top 4-H'ers into the Virginia Chapter of All Stars, is planned for Friday evening.

Assemblies, tours, state contest finals, recreation, and classes in various agricultural and homemaking subjects are scheduled throughout the week.

4-H members attending from Appomattox County are: Laura Carson, Betty Jean Goad, Carrie Jane Inge, Patricia Alvis, Winifred Lee, Joyce Mayberry, Gene Carson, Bobby Barger and Billy Carson.

NEW EXHIBIT BUILDING AT STATE FAIR

Richmond.- A new exhibit building, with 20,800 square feet of floor space, will be built soon on the grounds of the State Fair of Virginia here to give permanent housing for the exhibits of the departments and agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It will replace the tent that has been used for the past several years, R. O. Glover, executive vice president, said today.

The new structure will have steel framework, concrete block and aluminum walls and aluminum roof. It will be 80 feet wide and 260 feet long with modernistic front and hard surface floor. The building will be located adjacent to the Commerce and Industry Building and will be connected to it by covered passageway. Space will be provided for 80 exhibits ranging from 100 to 350 square feet.

With the completion of the new building, exhibit space in the seven permanent buildings will total over 3 acres. An additional 2 acres of tents are to be added to house other departments, bringing the total covered exhibit space to 237,200 square feet.

The Senate passed the Administration's $3,500,000,000 foreign aid program after rejecting a series of restrictive amendments.

Hobby Horse Rustlers

Charleston, S. C.- Proving that there are all kinds of rustlers in the world—this time they pried open a pay-as-you-ride hobby horse in a local store and stole $150 in dimes.

U. S. Check Bounces

Los Angeles.- Edward Saver was greatly surprised when a Government check for $37.50 he had received bounced. It seems somebody in the U. S. Treasury Department had neglected to sign it.

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